

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 11 and 12 have been allowed.

Claims 10, 15, 16, and 18 have been indicted to be directed to allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-9, 13, 14, and 17-20 were rejected under §112, second paragraph for not reciting "electrical contacts to feed electric current through the sheet material".

Claim 13 has been amended to remedy the stated basis of rejection, by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 15/16 respectively.

Allowance of 13, as well as the dependent claims is solicited.

Reconsideration as to the indefiniteness rejection as to claim 1 is solicited.

Although the specification discloses that the inventive frame can be used for electrochemical treatment, the invention more generally is directed to a frame for holding a metal sheet material taut.

This aspect of the invention is what is recited in the preamble of claim 1. Also see the first sentence of specification page 1. Also see the first aim of the invention beginning on line 20 of specification page 1.

There is an embodiment of the invention which uses the

electrical contacts on the frame to feed electric current through the sheet material, and that embodiment is recited by claim 10.

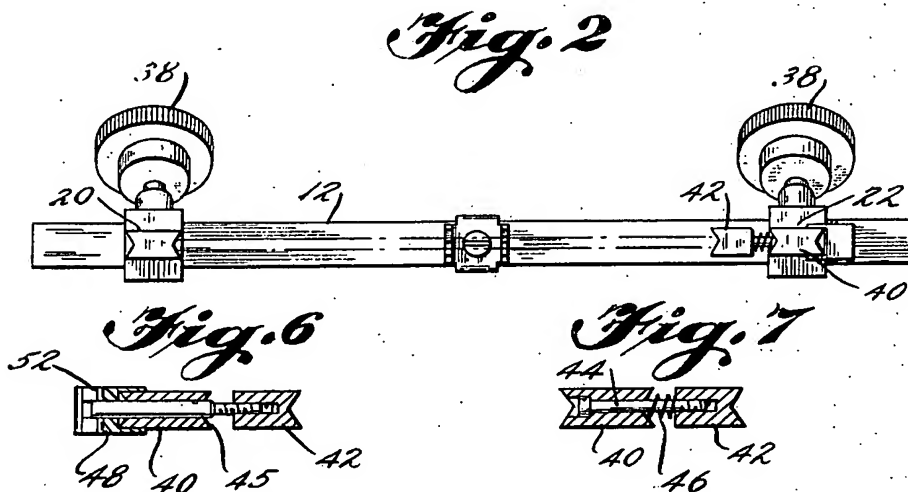
Thus, each embodiment is recited. This approach is proper under section 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is solicited.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of claims 2-3. Thus, the outstanding issues have been reduced. Entry of this amendment is solicited.

Claims 1-8, 13, 17, 19 and 20 stand rejected as anticipated by SIEGEL 3,826,483.

SIEGEL does not anticipate as SIEGEL does not provide a frame that holds a metal sheet material taut.



Rather, SIEGEL provides a frame that holds a stiff plate compressed, under a compressive/pushing force, between two legs.

As outlined in the Official Action, in the paragraph spanning pages 3-4, tension arm assembly 22 with the spring 46 on pins 44 biases tension bar 42 away from arm 40. This places the held plate under compressive tension.

In contrast, and as claimed, the invention holds a flexible sheet taut, under tensile/pulling stress (specification page 3, line 22), between to legs.

In this regard, compression (pushing in toward the plate) and being taut (pulling out from the edges of the sheet) are two opposites. Therefore, SIEGEL teaches away from the invention, i.e., by teaching compression/pushing to hold a plate whereas the invention teaches holding a flexible sheet taut/pulling.

Additionally, the recited compensation means of the invention are not disclosed by SIEGEL.

As outlined above, and in the Official Action paragraph spanning pages 3-4, SIEGEL tension arm assembly 22 with the spring 46 on pins 44 biases tension bar 42 away from arm 40 and toward the held plate, to place the held plate under compressive tension.

In contrast, the compensation means of the invention includes a spring member which maintains a tensile force that pushes the movable leg away from the held sheet to maintain the held sheet taut. This tensile/pulling action is due to the spring pretension (specification page 3, lines 20-25).

Accordingly, there is no anticipation.

Reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims are respectfully requested.

In each embodiment of SIEGEL the compression means is attached to one of the movable arms.

Applicant does not see, as per claim 4, wherein the compensation means further comprise a securing member that can be secured in various positions along the support. Nor does applicant see the spring member extending between any such securing member and the movable leg.

Although there are "securing members" that allow the movable arms 20, 22 to move along holding fixture 10, applicant does not see that the compensation means of SIEGEL includes a securing member which comprises a movable clamp around the bottom flange of the support.

Claim 6, depends from claim 5. Applicant does not see wherein such clamp has a slider with respect to which the movable leg can be slid, which slider has a stop to limit the sliding movement of the leg with respect to the clamp.

SIEGEL may have somewhat similar elements, but they are not as recited and do not form the recited combination.

Although the arms 20, 22 of SIEGEL move relative to holding fixture 10, applicant does not see, as per claim 9, wherein the movable leg has a base provided with rollers that can be rolled relative to the beam.

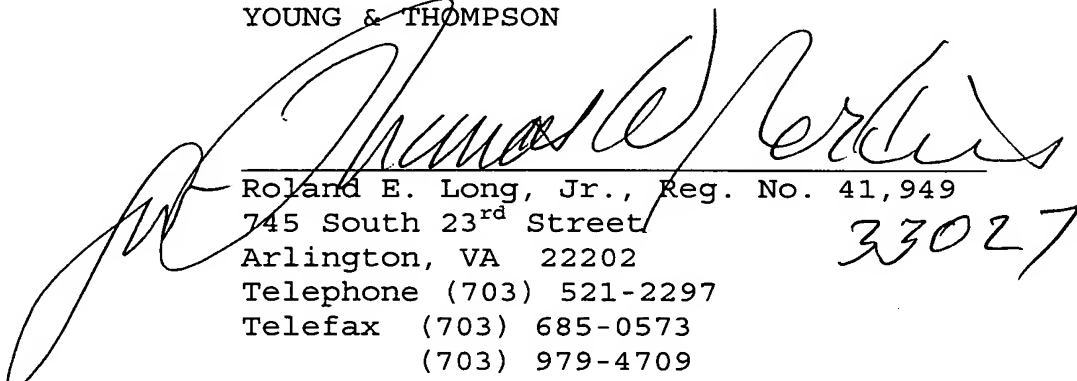
Thus, these claims are also not seen as being anticipated.

Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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